

Message Text

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ACTION IO-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 IOE-00 NEA-07 DHA-02 EUR-08 PM-03
SP-02 L-01 INR-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 /049 W
-----091539Z 111035 /53

P 091249Z FEB 77

FM ANEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9599

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORIY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 04015

LIMDIS

NESCO

FOR SENIOR DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY TOUSSAINT - IO

E.O. 1162: GDS

TAGS: PORG, UNESCO, IS

SUBJECT: GOI LETTER ON OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

REF: PARIS 3956

JU. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF GOI LETTER GIVEN TO US BY
JOFFE:

QUOTE: EXCELLENCY, I HAVE THE HONOR TO REFER TO YOUR
EXCELLENCY'S LETTER OF AUGUST 6, 1976, ADDRESSED TO THE
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, CONCERNING THE MISSION
WHICH YOU WISH TO SEND TO ISRAEL IN ORDER TO GATHER
INFORMATION ON THE STATE OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE
ADMINISTERED TERRITORIES, TO THE MINISTER'S REPLY OF
SEPT. 14, 1976, AND TO THE EXCHANGE OF MESSAGES BETWEEN
YOUR EXCELLENCY AND THE MINISTER OF OCTOBER 1, 1976, ON
THE SAME MATTER.

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I HAVE ALSO BEEN INSTRUCTED TO RECALL THE TALKS WHICH
TOOK PLACE IN NEW YORK IN SEPTEMBER LAST YEAR BETWEEN
THE MINISTER AND THE ASSISTANT DIRECTR GENERAL, IN
WHICH IT AAS MADE CLEAR THAT ACTION TAKEN BY THE 19TH
GENERAL CONFERENCE AT NAIROBI ON THIS QUESTION, WOULD
INEVITABLY HACE AN EFFECT ON PUBLIC ATTITUDES IN

ISRAEL TOWARDS THE PROPOSED MISSION. A SIMILAR CAUTIONARY VIEW WAS EXPRESSED BY THE HEAD OF THE ISRAELI DELEGATION TO THE GENERAL CONFERENCE. IT IS THUS WITH EXTREME REGRET AND DISAPPOINTMENT THAT THE MINISTER HAS NOTED THAT THE GENERAL CONFERENCE HAS ONCE AGAIN CONDEMNED ISRAEL ON UNFOUNDED CHARGES OF VIOLATIONS OF THE RIGHTS OF THE POPULATIONS OF THE AREAS IN QUESTION TO NATIONAL EDUCATION AND CULTURAL LIFE, BEFORE ANY EXAMINATION OF THE FACTS.

AS YOUR EXCELLENCY IS WELL AWARE, ISRAEL HAS NOTHING TO HIDE AND HAS NOT BEEN IN PRINCIPLE OPPOSED TO THE VISIT OF A MISSION, AS SPECIFIED IN OUR CONTACTS REFERRED TO ABOVE, AT AN APPROPRIATE TIME.

IN VIEW OF THE ANTICIPATED POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN ISRAEL AND IN THE MIDDLE- EAST IN GENERAL DURING THE COMING MONTHS, MR. ALLON FEELS THAT THE PRESENT WOULD NOT BE AN APPROPRIATE TIME TO CONSIDER THE SENDING OF YOUR REPRESENTATIVES TO ISRAEL. HE SUGGESTS THEREFORE THAT THE MATTER BE POSTPONED TO THE SUMMER OF THIS YEAR, AND HOPES THAT YOU WILL AGREE TO THIS.

I WOULD LIKE TO AVAIL MYSELF OF THIS OPPORTUNITY TO RE-NEW TO YOUR EXCELLENCY, THE EXPRESSION OF MY HIGHEST CONSIDERATION. SIGNED MEIR JOFFE, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE. UNQUOTE.

2. COMMENT: NOTE THAT THERE IS NO DIRECT REFERENCE TO CONFIDENTIAL

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GEN. CONF. RESOLUTIONS. HOWEVER, CAREFUL READING OF PARA 3 AND PARA 4 INDICATES GOI IS MAKING NO DIRECT COMMITMENT TO RECEIVE THE MISSION. STATEMENT THAT "ISRAEL HAS NOTHING TO HIDE AND HAS NOT BEEN IN PRINCIPLE OPPOSED TO VISIT" IS CAREFULLY WORDED TO PUT DIRECT REFERENCE TO VISIT IN PAST TENSE, I.E. "HAS NOT BEEN IN PRINCIPLE OPPOSED" AND DOES NOT GIVE ANY INDICATION THAT THEY ARE NOW READY TO ACCEPT MISSION OR WILL BE IN THE SUMMER. NEXT PARAGRAPH IS CAREFUL TO PUT OFF CONSIDERATION REPEAT CONSIDERATION OF THE SENDING OF THE MISSION, NOT TO PUT OFF THE ACTUAL SENDING OF THE MISSION. THE LAST LINE OF THIS PARAGRAPH SUGGESTS THAT THE "MATTER BE POSTPONED. THIS WOULD SEEM TO BE A REFERENCE TO THE

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SP-02 L-01 INR-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 /049 W
-----091539Z 109097 /53

P 091249Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 04015

LIMDIS NESCO

MATTER OF WHETHER OR NOT THE MISSION WOULD BE RECEIVED RATHER THAN A DIRECT POSTPONEMENT OF THE MISSION ITSELF. WE ARE SURE THESE NICETIES WILL NOT GO UNNOTICED BY M'BOW. NAJMAN AND KABORE WILL TRY TO GET HIM TO ACCEPT THE TEXT ON FAITH WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT GOI DOES MEAN TO RECEIVE THE MISSION. THE GOI HAS LEFT ITSELF A WAY OUT, FOR INSTANCE, IF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD WERE TO ADOPT A FURTHER RESOLUTION. HOWEVER, SUCH SEMANTIC JUGGLING MAY SET WELL WITH DOMESTIC OPINION, BUT IT WOULD NOT BE ACCEPTABLE TO OTHERS SHOULD GOI DECIDE NOT TO RECEIVE THE MISSION THIS SUMMER. THEREFORE, IT IS OUR CONSIDERED JUDGMENT THAT EVERY EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO PERSUADE GOI TO AGREE TO RECEIVE THE MISSION AND FIX A DEFINITE DATE IN ITS SUBSEQUENT DEALINGS WITH UNESCO.

3. AS TO THE PROBABLE EFFECT OF THE LETTER ON PROSPECTS FOR LIFTING THE JERUSALEM SANCTIONS, OUR JUDGMENT IS THAT IT IS NOW EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO EXPECT THE EXECUTIVE BOARD TO ACT AT ITS SPRING SESSION. IN FACT, M'BOW WOULD DO WELL TO KEEP THE CONTENTS OF THE LETTER SECRET AS THE ARABS WOULD CERTAINLY FIND IT EASY TO ATTACK. M'BOW HAS JUST RETURNED FROM MEETING
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WITH PRESIDENT ASSAD AND HE MAY HAVE MADE PROMISES ABOUT SENDING THE TEAM TO THE TERRITORIES. HE MAY NOT BE IN ANY POSITION TO DO ANYTHING FURTHER TO HELP THE GOI BY SUPPORTING LIFTING OF THE SANCTIONS. WE ARE QUITE CERTAIN THAT THE ARABS AND THIRD WORLD MEMBERS OF THE

BOARD WOULD WANT TO HAVE A POSITIVE REPORT ON SENDING THE TEAM TO THE TERRITORIES BEFORE CONSIDERING THE JERUSALEM ITEM. ALTHOUGH THE TWO ARE THEORETICALLY SEPARATE, THEY TEND TO MOVE SIDE BY SIDE. THEREFORE, THE BEST WE MAY NOW BE ABLE TO HOPE FOR IS A QUIET SPRING BOARD, NOT CONSIDERING ANY OF THE HOT MIDDLE EAST ITEMS. WE EXPECT TO BE TALKING WITH NAJMAN AND KABORE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO GET THEIR ASSESSMENT, PARTICULARLY OF THE REACTION OF M'BOW, AND THEY MAY TAKE A DIFFERENT VIEW. WE HOPE TO MEET WITH THEM BY THE END OF THE WEEK OR EARLY NEXT WEEK. WE DO NOT PLAN TO ASK FOR A MEETING WITH M'BOW, BUT MAY HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO TALK INFORMALLY WITH HIM.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EDUCATION, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, MILITARY OCCUPIED AREAS, CULTURES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 09-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PARIS04015
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770046-0548
Format: TEL
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770258/aaaabzmt.tel
Line Count: 184
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 77 PARIS 3956
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3365269
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOI LETTER ON OCCUPIED TERRITORIES
TAGS: PORG, IS, UNESCO, (JOFFE, MEIR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/3fd718c9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009